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# *The Role of Swiss Libraries in the Future of Open Science*

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21. September 2018, OpenCon, Bern

# For-profit trends - #openscience alternatives

## One aspect of a complex situation in flux

Acquisitions in the #scholcomm  
business. An example

Libraries engaging in #openscience:  
What we do, why, and what we need

# There is always a bigger fish

## Recent acquisitions in #scholcomm

### Acquisition affects all aspects of academia

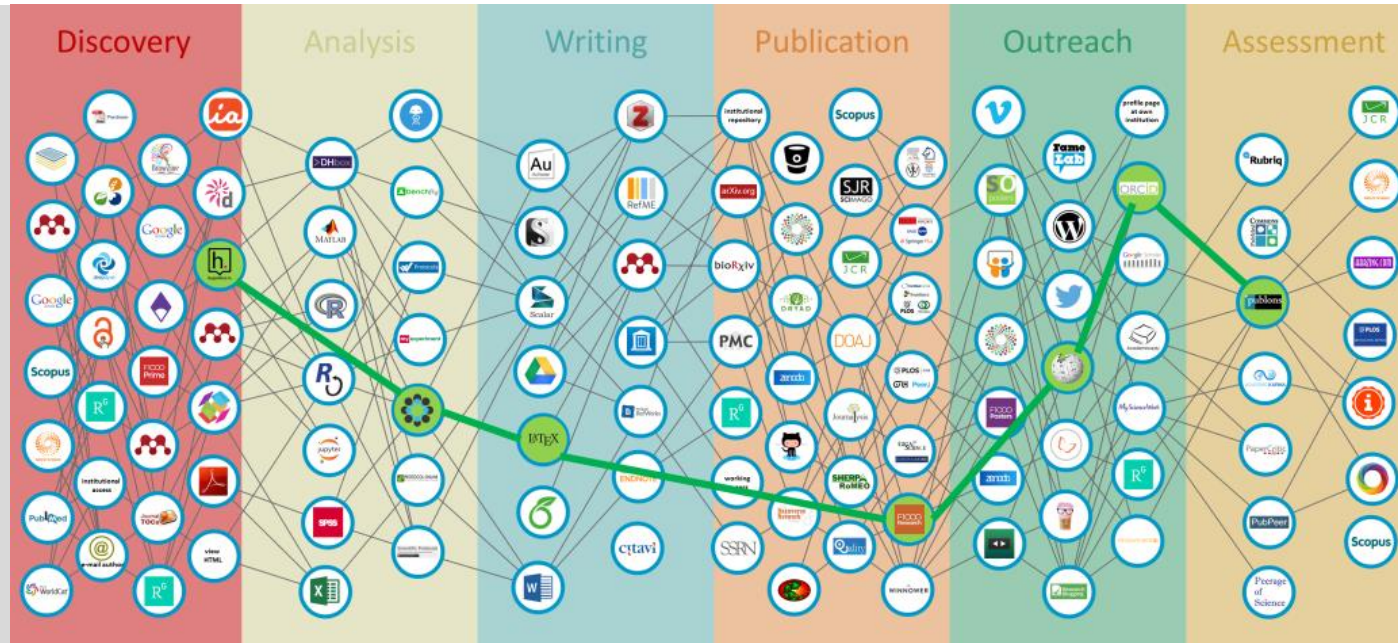
- Funding
- Data storage
- Teaching
- Writing
- Repositories
- Discoverability
- Metrics
- Publishing
- Etc.

### From product to service provider

- Companies (e.g. Elsevier) shift away from providing a specific product or service (publishing journals and books) towards a broad portfolio of services (research tools, writing, repositories, metrics, etc.)
- This diversification means that innovation including that in the #openscience movement is at risk of being acquired as soon as it is scalable (or too much competition).

# There is always a bigger fish

## Ecosystem: research production



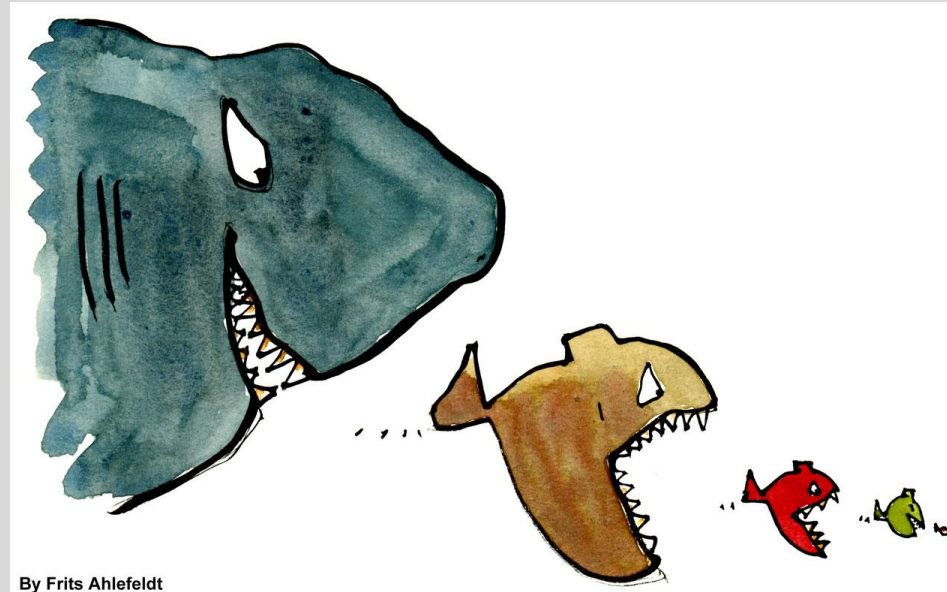
Source:  
<https://jrost.org/>

# There is always a bigger fish

## Example: ProQuest - Ex Libris - \*Research

### Academic area affected: funding

- \*Research Ltd. supports researchers with services to find and secure external funding
- Ex Libris is a Software company that builds library software
- ProQuest is an international information and tech company
- ...owned by the privately owned Cambridge Information Group



# There is always a bigger fish

## Concerns:

### **Acquisition and consolidation can result in:**

- Lack of transparency
- Lack of competition
- Lack of innovation
- Price hikes
- Loss of independence
- Stifling of alternative paths in #scholcomm

# Libraries engaging in #openscience

## What we do

### Infrastructure

- Implementing institutional research instruments
- Standardisation (Metadata etc.)
- Alternative publication venues
- Independent data infrastructure
- Developing new and missing instruments

### Services

- Supporting researchers in all things open science: requirements, curiosity, need.
- Vetting and offering a variety of open source tools for the research cycle
- Offering workshops, courses, consultations and discussions to researchers on all aspects of open science



# Libraries engaging in #openscience

## What we need and for what

### Cooperation with stakeholders

- funding instruments
- lawmakers
- institutions



In Switzerland:

- National OA Strategy
- Workable number of stakeholders

### A goal and how to reach it

To secure an alternative path for researchers by:

- Vetting, supporting and protecting vital parts of the #openscience ecosystem
- Investing in, monitoring and curating promising new projects (risks notwithstanding) and models
- Coordinating these investments and optimizing the costs.

# Libraries engaging in #openscience

## What we need most of all

### Cooperation with researchers

- To build instruments that further research
- To facilitate easy handling and maneuvering of OA requirements
- To fill our repositories and OA publishing venues with excellent content

The goal is to create a sustainable alternative to the current (ailing) #scholcomm framework.

Transparent, reusable and accessible to all.

WE NEED YOU!



# Thank you!

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